



Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: May 15th, 2019
Time: 7:15PM
Location: 1st floor conference room
Attendees: Executive committee: Christopher Tonkin (chair), Doug Greenfield, Jack Johnson, Muris Kobaslija, Adam MacNeill, Doug Mayo-Wells, Scott Smith
Town of Arlington: Daniel Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner
David Creedon, Cecily Miller

Review/approval of April minutes

Not everyone had a chance to review the draft; deferred

TAC report - Scott

MASS DOT/MAPC - Automated driving system presentation

Town agreed with State to consider allowing AV testing on streets - still need to determine where -- committed us to allow SOME form of testing, but a lot of groundwork and data collection before getting a driverless vehicle on the roads, e.g., can't register a vehicle with RMV that has no steering wheel.

Concerns about safety, desirability. Driver-in-vehicle testing hasn't prevented accidents in other locations, but AVs will not be distracted and might be better than human drivers at avoiding bike lanes.. Arlington as a test site offers autonomous vehicles opportunities to test bike path/street intersections (e.g., Lake St), hills, solar glare, weather etc. Intent is for the Town to define the parameters under which AV testing can proceed, and invite companies to propose testing programs within those parameters. (No applications are currently being considered).

MA restrictive compared to other states - only Nutonomy and Optimus Ride have been doing some testing.

Many AV tests elsewhere involve the definition of zones in which the AVs are permitted to operate, Arlington's size and geography makes this approach problematic. Instead could restrict to specific streets (avoid school zones) or times of day. Possible to consider a model where human driver takes over when vehicle needs to operate outside the conditions under which it's permitted to operate autonomously.

Speed limits - Tri-town meeting (tentatively June 8)

There is pressure, particularly in Lexington, to take action to reduce the likelihood of more serious accidents.

Lexington is advocating a bikeway speed limit of 15mph, however Lexington PD won't enforce (Lexington does not consider the Minuteman Trail a public right of way).

Concerns about the proposed speed limit included that the 15mph limit is somewhat incompatible with the 20mph top pedal assist speed for a Class 1 e-bike, and that riders without speedometers will not reliably know if they are in compliance or not.

We discussed whether speed limits could be based on time of day, but noted that the "during school hours" model does not work as trail use is heavy on weekends. (We believe that making speed restrictions enforceable in Arlington would require a Town by-law.) Concern was expressed that unenforceable signs are problematic, will result in complaints on which no action can be taken. We discussed the use of signage to set expectations for reasonable behavior. We think that an advisory (orange) speed sign might be effective, as opposed to a speed limit.

Lexington is also advocating restrictions on e-bike use on the Minuteman as follows: Only Class 1 (pedal assist to maximum speed of 20mph) would be permitted. Class 2 e-bikes (throttle assist to maximum speed of 20mph) would not be permitted, nor would Class 3 e-bikes (pedal assist to a maximum speed of 28mph).

Concerns about the proposed e-bike restriction included the question of whether the speed restrictions makes e-bike restrictions moot (since e-bikes would not be permitted to operate above 15mph regardless of class), as well as reluctance to restrict devices that could benefit people with limited mobility (but not disabilities as covered under the ADA). We noted that the pending state legislation would allow Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes to be treated as bicycles (vs motor vehicles), subject to local jurisdictional restrictions. (The pending legislation proposes additional licensure requirements for Class 3 e-bikes, due to their speed.)

All towns agree that the Minuteman should be treated as a single facility, so unless Arlington, Lexington and Bedford all agree on the action to be taken, the proposals may not move forward.

Bike share updates

Concerns have been raised about Lime's responsiveness, number of bikes (not enough) Minimum number for viable service is likely 50-60 rides/day; there are 30 Lime bikes in Arlington currently.

We understand that there has been some staff turnover at Lime.

License renewal is due end of June

Bikeway cleanup - debrief

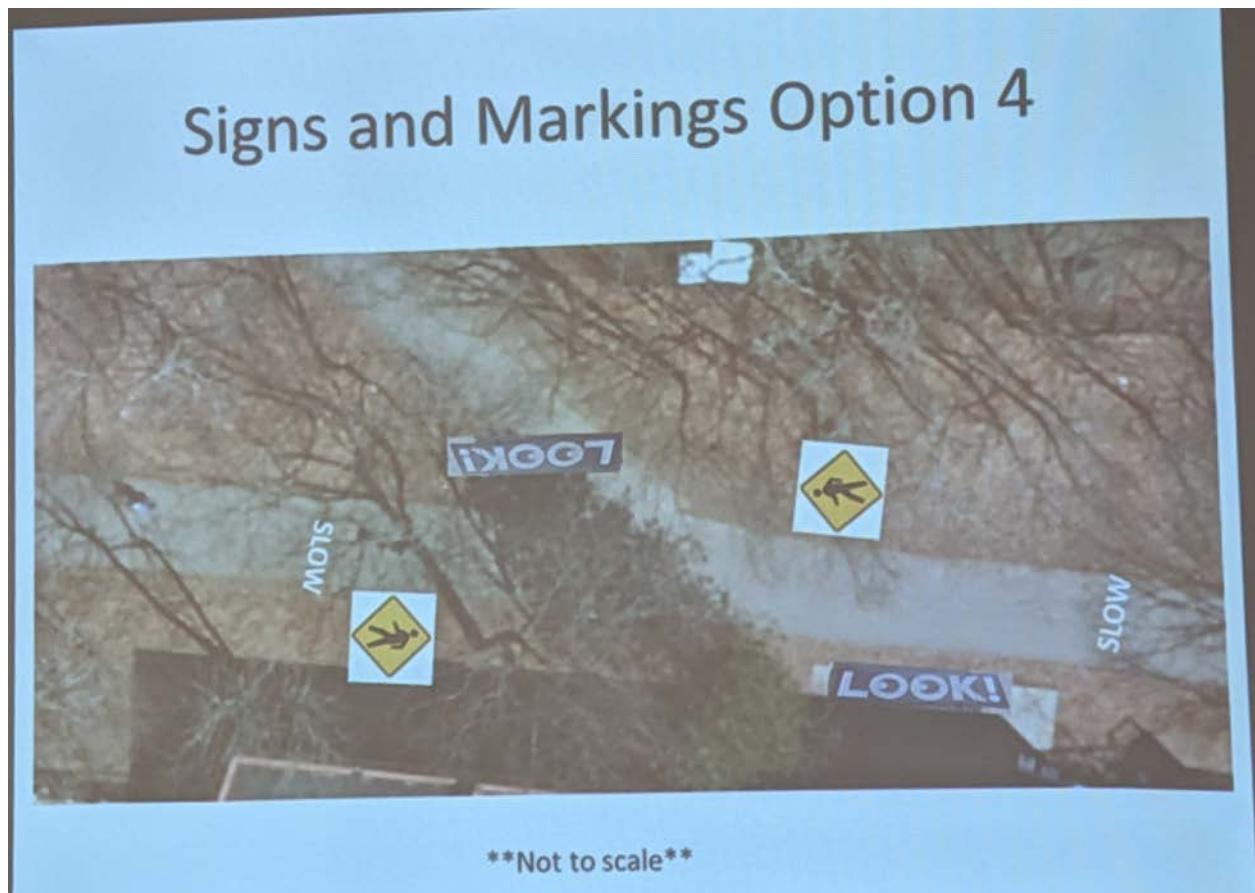
Doug M will have trash grabber tools available to lend next time

Observed less trash around TJ compared to near Rt 2

Clean up volunteers were thanked by passers by - maybe we could have some form of "clean up sponsored by ABAC" signage to raise visibility?

Crossing near Trader Joe's - safety concerns

In Sep 2017 a pedestrian was hit, injured. Proposing a mix of signage/pavement markings for cyclists and pedestrians similar to the following



We also proposed adding a sawtooth yield indication on the Drake side?

We did not favor tactile warning strips - used from sidewalk to road generally, and can be slippery.

Signs are relatively easy, although we may need new stencils for road markings (DPW had to buy stencils for Lake st bus stop)

"Look" treatment should indicate to look both ways "<- LOOK ->"

Platform at TJ may be private property, so an easement may be required to paint it - rampway is ROW for bikeway

Bike count/counter

Data from Tuesday 14th - Weather was 40s, damp

1037 total

509 cyclists

375 walkers

124 joggers

28 children in carriers

1 roller blader

Permanent counter to be installed, one of 4 around the state (also Northern Strand, Adams, Cape Cod)

Counter uses combo of ground loop and visual detection

Will be installed 120' from Swan place intersection - 3-4' off path
so sign post is clear of plows

Eco Counter Mutli looks like wooden post - submits data at 15min intervals

Mass DOT will pay for first year of its operation

May need to close Bikeway segment for loop installation (should be one day max)

We will still do manual counts - to validate, get more fine grained data (e.g., directional)

Other places to consider automated counter installation: other MM bikeway points,- on street, Arlington center, Mass Ave?

Town Day

September 14

Safety theme - posters, signs to use as talking points

Print out rules for bikeway

visual on most common bike accidents

Safety reporting

Christopher to schedule meeting with Capt. Curran, officer Corey Rateau re: non car bike accidents - how to report, track

ABAC at beer garden dates possible June 15 and/or Aug 17

ABAC action plan

6 Es writeups assigned as follows

- Enforcement (Scott - draft submitted)
- Encouragement (Jack)
- Equity (Christopher)
- Education (Muris)
- Engineering (David C)
- Evaluation and planning (Doug M)

Should run town-wide survey, identify citizen's concerns

Need to prioritize, assess impact (e.g. LAB bike-friendly community standards/guidance), assess difficulty, time frame

Bike lanes (including protected bike lanes), Mystic River path connection etc should be in overall Arlington transportation plan

Cecily Miller - art on bikeway

Reviewed proposals from 3 different artists

safety and vandalism

near Linwood St

Freedom Baird -

Installation proposed near Linwood St, from May - September

Artist known for socially engaged artwork sculptures built into trees, etc

Will use 10'x14' gardening space - native plants w/non-functional furniture - raising questions about native/invasive/agricultural plants, tradition of gardening etc

Artist will frequently be present on site to discuss

Will remove, restore sod as part of installation

Concerns raised about whether the proposed location is fully on bikeway right-of-way and if permission of abutters might be required. (planning dept has ROW as well as plat info for abutters)

Johnny Lapham -

Artist who did the color discs at bus stops - would install similar color discs spring/fall 2019 around Swan Place/Linwood

Leslie Wilcox -

re-install bikeway haiku - favorable response but didn't last long, not all submitted haikus were printed.

same stencils, paid for already
maybe in Bedford, Lexington too?

bike fix-it clinics

Library - fix it clinic - looking for coaches
Chad from EALS - has done this in past
Jeff Roth - bike rodeo June 8 fixit
also looking for volunteers

Facebook updates

question on annual bike tour is (not this month)
concerns about cost of bikeway/Lake st traffic light - (Town Meeting approve 750K\$ budget)

Library reading - June 26, Lorenz Finison, does ABAC want to co-sponsor?
(we are happy to help publicize, but have no promotional budget)

Vandalism of bike repair station at Thorndike field

Upgraded parts have been ordered from vendor (2 months+ ago)
Emailed recently to check on status

Other matters

- motion to adjourn
- carries none opposed